UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1914
14 June 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General writes to Group of Seven leaders calling attention to United Nations financial crisis; suggests Member States issue bonds for settlement of $1.4 billion in arrears to Organization.

* Secretary-General condemns attack on international convoy in Burundi; calls on all parties to refrain from violence and to cooperate with efforts to bring peace and stability to country.

* United Nations peace-keepers released yesterday by Bosnian Serbs arrive in Zagreb; 26 personnel remain in detention.

* Humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina deteriorates steadily as Bosnian Serbs continue to block aid convoys.

* Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNOMIL mandate for three months; urges Liberian parties to install Council of State and observe comprehensive cease-fire.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has written to the leaders of the Group of Seven industrialized States calling attention to the financial crisis confronting the United Nations. He welcomed the intention of the Seven to consider the role of the Bretton Woods Institutions in conjunction with the United Nations system as a whole, at their upcoming Summit in Halifax, Canada.

The United Nations could not continue to accept new missions, nor even to discharge its current responsibilities, without being able to rely on a dependable capital base or upon commercial borrowing, the Secretary-General said. A structure was needed for predictable and adequate financing of United Nations operations, and for streamlining the Organization and its funds and programmes.

To deal with the immediate situation, he asked the Group of Seven to consider a plan for the settlement of Member States' arrears, which now totaled $1.4 billion. He suggested an exchange agreement of mutual support by each Member State for the United Nations. States in arrears would issue bonds to the Organization. Those bonds would be exchanged and accepted by other

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totaled $1.4 billion. He suggested an exchange agreement of mutual support by each Member State for the United Nations. States in arrears would issue bonds to the Organization. Those bonds would be exchanged and accepted by other Members in settlement of amounts owed to them for contributions of troops and equipment, which now totaled $800 million. The bonds would have an appropriate maturity and would set forth an irrevocable pledge of settlement by States in arrears.

The Secretary-General stressed that the United Nations had the capability to handle the new global challenges. However, to do so the Organization needed reliable financial resources and the understanding and support of its leading Member States.

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The Secretary-General has condemned today's ambush against an international convoy in Burundi's Cibitoke Province. Among those travelling in the convoy were the Foreign Minister of Burundi, the United States Ambassador to the country, Organization of African Unity (OAU) observers, and members of the Burundese military. One OAU observer from Burkina Faso was killed in the ambush, while another observer and six Burundese military personnel were wounded.

The Secretary-General called on all parties to refrain from further acts of violence and to cooperate fully with the efforts of the Government and the international community to bring durable peace and stability to Burundi. He conveyed his condolences to the members of the family of the deceased, to the Government of Burkina Faso and to the Secretary-General of the OAU.

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The 26 United Nations personnel released yesterday by the Bosnian Serbs have arrived in Zagreb, a United Nations spokesman announced today. The group consisted of 14 French soldiers, six British, two Polish, one Russian, one Norwegian, one Swede and one Czech. The Bosnian Serbs continued to detain 26 personnel, including 15 military observers. However, there were unconfirmed reports that 11 Canadians being held at Ilijas would be released today.

Meanwhile, the Bosnian Serbs "de-blocked" another 92 peace-keepers in weapons collection points and observation posts, but continued to surround some of them. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was attempting to clarify the situation with a view to resupplying and rotating the soldiers, the spokesman said.

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The humanitarian situation in Sarajevo is deteriorating steadily after three weeks without international relief convoys, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said today. Gas, electricity and water supplies to the city have also been cut off by the Bosnian Serbs.

The UNHCR received no clearance for convoys to the Bosnian enclaves today, and cancelled one bound for Srebrenica. The Bosnian Serbs have been demanding 50 per cent of the aid intended for the enclaves. UNPROFOR resupply convoys have also been blocked.

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The Secretary-General has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for three months to 30 September. In a report dated 10 June, he noted that the recent Summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had not yielded a final agreement on the composition of the Liberian Council of State. However, a substantial measure of agreement had emerged among the parties on almost all unresolved issues concerning its installation.

The Secretary-General expressed hope that the Liberian parties would soon reach agreement on the outstanding issues, and take concrete steps to end the crisis. He underlined the importance of the installation of the Council of State; a comprehensive cease-fire; the disengagement of forces; and a timetable for the implementation of agreements reached.

If the necessary steps were not taken within the next three months, UNOMIL should be terminated and converted into a mission of good offices, he said. In the absence of a cease-fire and the resumption of disarmament, UNOMIL military observers would be withdrawn. If there were significant progress over the next three months, the Security Council should consider restoring the Mission to its full strength. However, UNOMIL's role in Liberia and its relationship with the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) should then be adjusted to enable the two operations to function more effectively.

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